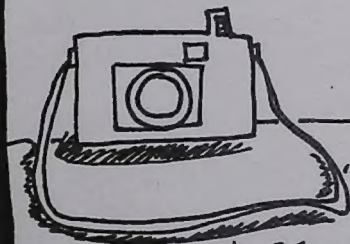


distortion · light leak · cheap · plastic · disposable · reusable

## the toy camera



clicky.  
click.

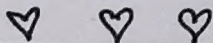
medium format · 35 mm · holaa · diand · polaroid · pano



the toy camera. we love them, and they're cheap. the toy camera is often plastic, sometimes re-usable, and sometimes distorted. the images that come out of toy cameras are unique and funky.

my favorite toy camera is the holga. the holga is a ripoff of the diana cam, but just as fabulous. they produce vignette images with dreamy distortions and light leaks. The holga is a medium format toy camera. You can pick them up brand new for around \$15 - \$20 US. you can also buy modified, funky versions from the ①

good folks at [www.holgamods.com](http://www.holgamods.com). Or you can go to your local camera store and ask them to order one for you.

### HOLGA BASICS




there are two settings. cloudy and sunny.   } — guess which one is which.

on very sunny days, i use 100 ISO film.  
on overcast days i use ~~100~~ ISO 400. (any brand). Indoors i use Ilford 3200. (2)


it's really hard to go wrong with the holga.  
put your perfectionist to bed before you  
pick up this camera. Kick anxiety out  
the window. Seriously. relax. it's all about  
the fun and the funky. Just put some  
film in the camera and go play.

(Some people like to tape up the seams  
of their holga to prevent more light leaks.  
I always shoot a roll to see if it's ok,  
and generally do not bother to tape them  
up. I have three holgas at home. I ♥ ③

them all, and each one vignettes differently. every Holga is different and should be named accordingly.



toy cameras share one thing in common — they are about capturing the moment — finding the fun. So, whether you have a holga, a polaroid, or a regular disposable 35mm, try some of these projects —>



grab your camera, grab some film, and GO —>!

(4)



## Project # 1: the Amelie Factor:

- acquire a yard ornament.
- photo document it in some way.
- you may want to ask permission first —  
this zine does not encourage theft + cough +
- arrange the photos to tell an amusing story.
- post them in a public place like a bulletin board.
- return now and then to photograph any response.

## project #2: plant your feet.

- stand in one place. try to make interesting photos (or a series) without moving your feet.
- can you come up with ideas to make it interesting?
- shoot at least 1 roll.



### Project #3: shoot from the hip

o shoot without using the view finder. literally shoot from the hip, camera rested there.



o check out your resulting compositions. are any of them more interesting than what you would normally have done?



o crazy angles can be fun. plus it's harder for others to tell you are takin' photographs. (7)



Some self documentation to try:

- photograph yourself every day for 24, 12, or 36 days, depending on how many frames your film has.
- photograph your favorite things + places. can you convey why you like them with light and shadow?

## project # 4: photo. people

- o photograph 5 strangers with their permission.
- o photograph 2 very old people with their permission.
- o photograph 2 people you know in passing with their permission.

examine the photos: do the images reflect your relationship or lack of same? does the way

you approach these different people  
read in the image?

it is important to learn to interact with  
people, even strangers (yes, total  
strangers) to become a better  
photographer.

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project #5: the mundane

- photo. document a mundane  
activity. make it interesting.

## project #6: turn off the flash!

- photograph with one light source, no flash. experiment with different light. examine how directionality + intensity influence the mood of the image.

- try using reflectors, just out of the range of the camera viewfinder. crinkled tin foil and mirrors work well.

if you're using a holga, remove the film guard  ← thingy. this will allow you to shoot those square images with vignetting.

\*note: the batteries in the flash holgas will fall out when you remove this. so take them out for a while and shoot without a flash. \*

COLOR AND YOU

also remember that the type of light you photograph under affects the (12).



color of your color photos. if you are shooting with color film:

- ① fluorescent light is yellow/green.
- ② tungsten (filament bulbs) is yellowish orange
- ③ natural light varies by time of day.  
at sunrise + sunset, it is often gold.  
at dusk, it is blue.

° if you don't mind, that's ok! if you do mind, you may have to manually ~~edit~~ color balance in photoshop after your negs are scanned.

Some labs will balance slightly for you,  
but most quick 1 hour places just have  
a standard and the print everything  
by that standard.

(so you might enjoy the relatively  
simple foray into black and  
white film.)

or you can get crazy and shoot on  
slide film and have it cross processed  
as C41 instead of E6. ♡

(14)

(that means they develop it as if it were negative film, not positive film. there is some neat color shift.) ♡

## project # 7: close your eyes

- shoot an entire roll of film with your eyes closed.

come on! it's fun.

(why? it helps you relax and have fun without knowing what you'll have! on the film ✂)

## Something to try: Photo Book

- ° Keep a sketchbook with photos pasted in. write down thoughts/observations.
- ° write down what you liked /didn't like about it.
- ° keep track of lighting ideas, notes, locations, color schemes, patterns, film types, etc. yes photographers use sketchbooks too! ♥

## project #8: less than perfect picture

- try to make some photos with the intent of being imperfect.
- let some parts be blurry - try things you might not try otherwise.
- don't worry about "wasting" film.
- photograph through things like distorted glass and saran wrap.



project #9: self portrait as \_\_\_\_.

° dress yourself up! be a B movie actor, a horror movie victim, a film noir detective, a biker. try photographing yourself as different icons / personas in different light and locations.

° try it! Cindy Sherman did! ♥

this little booklet of self assigned photo projects was  
→ made MAY 25 '06. it may be revised later.

♡ → in the mean time, enjoy

TOY CAMERAS  
RULE! ♡



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